

## OVERVIEW OF WELFARE REFORM AND REAUTHORIZATION

1. The 1996 Republican welfare reforms have worked.
  - a. Child poverty fell sharply. Since 1996, nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty; the African-American child poverty rate is now at a record low. (*Census Bureau*)
  - b. More parents are working. Employment by mothers most likely to go on welfare rose by 40% between 1995 and 2000. (*Census Bureau*)
  - c. Dependence fell by unprecedented levels. Welfare caseloads fell by 9 million – from 14 million recipients in 1994 to just 5 million today. (*HHS*)
2. Still, there is more work left to do.
  - a. 58 percent of recipients are not working or training. (*HHS*)
  - b. Too many families break up or never form.
  - c. 2 million families remain dependent on welfare. (*HHS*)
3. The Republican bill maintains and strengthens the 1996 reforms.
  - a. More parents are expected to work for their benefits.
  - b. States will continue to receive record federal welfare and child care funds, despite huge caseload declines since 1996.
  - c. New marriage promotion funds will strengthen families.
  - d. “State flex” and other provisions will give States more flexibility to better coordinate programs to help even more needy families support themselves.